

HOW IMPORTANT IS YOUR VERIFICATION?

If you have been licensed for a few years you may have been asked by someone to complete a verification of his or her experience while under your direct supervision. This verification is part of an individual's application for licensure as a professional engineer or land surveyor. It is a step that helps the Board determine if an individual is truly qualified and ready to sit for the professional examination.

In a typical application the individual explains their various employment engagements where they were practicing their profession. In each engagement they are asked to provide a detailed accounting of the type of work they performed. For instance, in the PE application, applicants are asked to explain their experience in categories such as: formulating conclusions and recommendations; identifying design objectives; alternative methods and concepts; defining specifications and many others. They are asked to describe their experience in specific terms and provide an indication of how many years/months of experience they gained.

When an applicant has completed their work experience accounting, that portion of the application is then forwarded to those professionals who had direct supervision over the time when the experience was gained or can attest to having knowledge of the accuracy of the applicant's statements.

When a licensee is asked to complete the experience verification they become a significant part of the application process. Their role and the statements they make help ensure that the Board meets the first two objectives in its Mission:

- That only qualified applicants are permitted to take the examinations for licensure.
- That only competent individuals are granted licensure to practice.

It is a very important part of the process because it is the supervisors who have the best understanding of the applicant's suitability for licensure. If a licensee does not do a thorough job in the verification process or knowingly endorses a candidate for licensure that has not gained the necessary experience, the verifying professional has potentially exposed the public to unnecessary risks and harm. They are also in likely violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, which could result in disciplinary action by the Board.

When you are asked to perform this important assignment accept it with the gratitude that your opinion is highly respected and the responsibility that only qualified individuals should sit for the exam.